



**Tuesday 7th September - Rātū 7 o Mahuru**

# School Newsletter

**Week 7, Term 3, 2021**



## ***Kia ora koutou e te iwi!***

*On Thursday 9th September, we return to school under alert level 2 settings after working and learning from home for the past 3 weeks. We would like to acknowledge all of our tamariki, whānau, staff, and community networks who have absolutely done their best to get through this challenging time. Rāhui (lockdown) time is never an easy time with the uncertainty and restrictions that implicate our everyday lives. Ka nui ngā mihi aroha kia tātau! You will find our alert level 2 protocols further down in this newsletter.*

*We would also like to officially thank Matua Dave Willis who was relieving in Room 12 prior to lockdown (and some of the way through) looking after a junior class until their newly appointed kaiako could transition to Ōwhata School. Matua Dave is in and around our kura regularly and did a wonderful job of caring for this class. We welcome Whaea Toni Crengle who returns to Ōwhata School after working at Ōtonga Primary School for the past few years.*

*We are pleased to have the majority of tamariki and staff returning to working and learning onsite, with a portion who will continue working and learning from home. We can reassure you that our staff are well prepared and we have our safety plans and Golden Rules in place. Our approach is considerate of the social and emotional impacts the rāhui time may have posed with the challenge of staying home for a long period of time. We will be discussing the many positives and worries our tamariki may have.*

*Ōwhata staff.*



# Owhata Primary School

Te Kura o Ōwhata

Respect Excellence Inquiry Integrity  
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## **Alert Level 2 - Safety Guidelines:**



stay healthy  
helpful  
& calm

- Our bus is up and running in the morning and afternoons as normal. There will be sanitiser available and we will keep a record of who is on the bus each day.
  - When your child/children arrive at school we will encourage you to let them walk into school on their own.
  - There will be staff members on duty to greet the children when they arrive in the morning.
  - Please use our 1 main entrance, which is between Te Hono - our carved posts at the front of our school.
  - If your tamariki are in the Hub (Room 12), Room 1, Room 7 or Room 2, 1 whānau member can take tamariki to the outside of their classroom - if you need to talk with our kaiako, they will come and see you if it's not during class time.
- **We are hoping that 8.30am can be the time of morning arrival for most students, with the exception of whānau who start work at 8.30am.**
  - Our free school lunches will continue.
  - Please ensure your tamariki has a morning snack and a water bottle to use - we are discouraging the use of our drinking fountains during alert level 2.
  - Breakfast Club will be available from 8.30am - 8.50am for tamariki who want a kai in the morning.
  - We will provide follow-up information about sports and extra-curricular activities in time.
  - It is expected that all tamariki return to school at this level unless advised otherwise by medical professionals.

## **5 Golden Rules for Whānau:**

1. Encourage your tamariki to enter the school gates on their own - we understand that some of our younger tamariki may require support and that's okay - scan in, wear a mask if you choose.
2. Avoid going into the classrooms - schedule an appointment if you need to see our kaiako.
3. Keep your personal space and maintain distancing regulations from others.
4. Be wise, sanitise!
5. Cough and sneeze into your elbow, if you are unwell, please stay home and phone us (07) 345 6051.



## **5 Golden Rules for Tamariki:**

1. Keep your personal space - the bubble you can draw around you.
2. Be wise and sanitise.
3. Cough and sneeze into your elbow, nobody wants a germ shower!
4. If you are unwell and feeling sick - stay home.
5. Play, learn and have fun!



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**Face coverings are not mandated for use when in schools. However, the Director General of Health strongly encourages staff and students aged 12 and above to wear face coverings in secondary school settings to align with the requirements when out and about and indoor public places. This is not a requirement for anyone in a school setting.**

**It remains an option for individuals and a decision for the individuals and whānau. Whatever decisions students and teachers make, it is their own to make and needs to be respected.**

## **Transition to School for our 4 year olds:**

Our transition programme will likely start again when we move to alert level 1 - we will be in contact with our ECE and whānau to keep you informed along the way. We are aware we have some 'almost' 5 year olds who are eager to start school and we will continue to support that the best we can during this time. We just want our current little people to settle into their new Golden Rules and routines so that we can ensure a calm and smooth transition. Whaea Callie is currently doing these inductions to school - feel free to contact me.

## **Helpful links for supporting tamariki and whānau:**

Link: [\*\*First Week Back Ideas for Staff and Whānau\*\*](#)

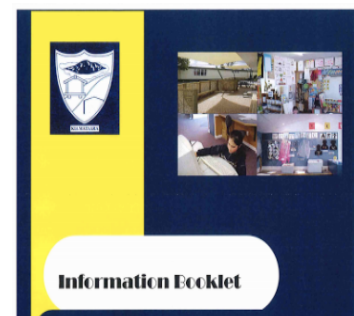
Our staff have been exploring lots of tasks and activities to support our tamariki returning to school. I have made this link available to whānau - this may help you to find resources that could spark good discussions in your home, also helping to support a positive transition for whānau as a whole. We also understand that tamariki, staff and whānau may have things to add to the 'worry jar' - we will be giving the tamariki space to discuss these. We want to validate all feelings during this time and hopefully provide some reassurance moving forward. If you as parents/whānau have something to add to the jar, please feel free to contact our teachers.



## **New Enrolments at Alert Level 2:**

[\*\*Link to enrolment forms 2020\*\*](#)

We can enrol new students during alert level 2. You can collect hard-copy forms from the office or print from the link above. Make a time to meet with senior management





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for the 'Warm Welcome' induction and discussions about transitions. This process needs to be completed before new students can start in their class - this gives our teachers time to prepare for the arrival of new students. If you have a 4 year old to enrol in our transition programme, you can also collect these forms from the office (different to school enrolment) and have a kōrero with our friendly staff. We thank you for your patience with this process during alert level 2.

## **Expectations - Golden Rules:**

With measures put in place for the **safety of all tamariki, staff and whānau** through alert level 2, we want to emphasise the need for our tamariki to do their absolute best to uphold these 'tikanga' or 'way of doing things' in class and in the playgrounds. We have tried to keep as much normalcy as possible and considered a realistic and practical approach to our 'new normal'. This means, if our tamariki are finding it difficult to uphold these measures, ie, keeping hands themselves, refusing to follow instructions and misconduct, we may be in contact with whānau to discuss this. He waka eke noa, we all need to do our part to keep ourselves, and others safe. We will be teaching our tamariki that it is a shared responsibility to keep our school safe from germs.



**DON'T FORGET A WATER BOTTLE!**

***Take care, contact us if you have any questions.***

Team Ōwhata! Here to support tamariki and whānau.

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